Fr. Berrigan Visits AQ

Meet the Man behind the Message

by Chris Manning
Times Contributing Writer

His is the only white collar you may ever see behind prison bars. His poetry was shared beyond prison walls and written in cells. He has dedicated his life to seeking an end to death and destruction through nonviolent protesting. Sometimes he even gives a home­less person a few bucks if he has it. He is Father Daniel Berrigan, a man whose faith in God and conviction for what is truly good is said to stir hope in a troubled world.

In a personal interview, he said very little of his poetry. However, he seemed to emphasize the importance of it in daily living. At one point he dubbed it the “continuing life of the mind.” Experience, he explained, and the experience of living brings one to write.

Father Berrigan also noted that poetry and writing describes who we are and what makes us that way. As for his improvement as a poet, he could only say, “I think I’m a little less awful than I used to be.”

As some AQ students may re­member, he also planned on teach­ing Cornerstone College and winning the Saint Bride award.

Photo by Brigid Bulger

See “Berrigan,” p. 2

Knopke Unveils Plans for Construction

Campus Apartments Top his List

by Sharon Kukla and Andrew Pieper
Times Contributing Writer and Assistant Editor

President Harry Knopke, in his first address to the Academic As­sembly this year, announced two major physical construction projects which are in the beginning stages. In his comments he noted that changes in the Fieldhouse and residence halls are being considered.

An addition to the Fieldhouse is one of President Knopke’s top prior­i­ties, but details on the expan­sion are still being developed. How­ever, changes in the residence halls are moving into the discussion phase.

Knopke’s ideas for the residence halls include a re-conditioning of the major halls, and possibly con­struction of some new town-house style apartments. Both Regina and St. Joseph Halls are due for a facelift after surviving over thirty years without any major improvements made to them. Projections of increased enrollment allow a means for the college to provide permanent improvements and expansions to the halls, instead of simply patch­ing problems from year to year.

Knopke stressed that right now there are no definite plans, but rather the college is determining what it needs, and how it can get those needs fulfilled in the best manner. Structurally, the halls are fine, “said Knopke. “We are looking at redoing such things as the floors, ceilings, windows, and the heating and cooling elements of the halls.”

According to Knopke, it is impor­tant for the college to maintain the residence halls at a high level, be­cause they are such an important part of the students’ life. “Every­one needs to know that while fac­ulty and staff leave at the end of the day, students live here,” he said. Even though there have been no final decisions made, Knopke said that constructing additional halls at the location of what are cur­rently the East Area houses is one possibility.

Another obvious reason to create extra living space is to accommo­date the growing number of stu­dents. Randy MacGeorge, Direc­tor of Residence Life said, “Right now we are in a crowded situation. We aren’t at maximum capacity,” according to Knopke.

See “Knopke,” p. 3

AQ Spirit Shines at Homecoming 97

by Elizabeth Dudek
Times Contributing Writer

Homecoming festivities on Sept. 20 brought a big dose of Saint pride to an Aquinas campus that had been drenched with rain. Yet, the sun came out for Saturday’s soccer games and the much anticipated crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen.

The Homecoming Court arrived to greet the crowd in a 1957 Ford Thunderbird and two 1957 Ford Fairlanes that were donated by Aquinas alumni Norm Byrne. This year’s 1997 Homecoming King and Queen are senior Matt Flannigan and junior Stephanie Fochtman. Fochtman is a Pre-Med major from Minnesota.

Flannigan said, “It is a great honor to be chosen as King by my classmates. I am honored and ex­cited to be coming back next year.”

Newly crowned homecoming queen, Fochtman stated, “I’m hon­ored to represent Aquinas. I love this school and I love being a part of it. All candidates this year were extremely qualified.”

The Homecoming court included Flannigan and Fochtman, Janelle Burden, Maris Brancheau, Morgan Higginbotham, Andie Richmond, Chris Kreiner, Rene Palileo, Andy Pieper, and Alan Plum.

The women’s soccer team played Cornerstone College and won 14-0. According to fans the game was a blast, “One word, four letters: ROMP! But Cornerstone played with courage,” said AQ Political Science Profes­sor Dr. Roger Durham. The men’s soccer team played the Alumni team and won 3-2. (see story on p. 12)

Also on Saturday the Centi­pede Shuffle took place. Un­like any other marathon, par­ticipants were asked to “slither and shuffle their way through a 1.5 mile course.” They could run/jog/walk/shuffle or create a centipede with five connected individuals.

Prizes were awarded to the top competitors in the race, including the fastest, and fastest couple. One of the main participants was Fr. Berrigan himself.

Photo by Deanna Roberts

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Ehlers' Call to Students: "Envision the Future"

by Andrew Pieper
Times Assistant Editor

Congressman Vernon Ehlers, Republican U.S. representative for the Third Congressional District, visited the Aquinas campus Monday, Sept. 15, to address issues of the environment, higher education, the balanced budget, and the line-item veto. Describing action taken by the 105th Congress, Ehlers accentuated the need to envision the future.

Seven major environmental bills were sent to Congress this year, among them provisions to reduce legal costs and set clean air standards. "We have spent more money on attorneys to clean up toxic sites than actually cleaning up toxic sites," Ehlers said.

Washington's extreme diversity of environmental philosophy has caused Ehlers to believe "most people label these issues as partisan, but to a great extent they are not." He attributes the conflicting opinions to regional differences. For instance, the Endangered Species Act may not pass, according to Ehlers, because individual property rights are at stake. He said, "it is impossible to get a consensus or any progress on this issue."

He encouraged student involvement on environmental issues and support of the Western Michigan Environmental Action Council.

When questioned about Greenpeace, Ehlers felt that the organization has lost popular support by exaggerating, by their aggressiveness, and by not being truthful. Ehlers is a member of the National Wildlife Foundation, among other groups. Ehlers favored the balanced budget agreement, which would theoretically balance the federal budget by 2002. With the new plan, he expected an increase in federal student loans and lower taxes. Ehlers is co-sponsor of a bill to take trust funds off the budget. This would allow revenue collected from the gas tax, for example, to be spent instead of letting it accumulate in trust funds. "Honesty with voters means we either spend the money for what it was intended or cut the budget," Ehlers said.

Ehlers articulated how "excruciatingly hard it is in the political arena to solve long term problems" like Social Security and the $5.3 trillion national debt. He would like to diminish the debt, claiming that interest rates are about the price of a pack of cigarettes. Ehlers said:

"I don't want to cross the line and be doing what I didn't want to do. If I didn't want to be a part of the problem, I wouldn't want to cross the line and be doing what was right, he also didn't want to cross the line and become part of the problem. In other words he didn't allow his other concerns. "Lucky," he explained, "the jails in New York are clogged with offenders and (nonviolent) protestors are sent home rather than thrown into crowded jails."

His day to day life consists of being active in groups like the Atlantic Life Community, an altruistic group. He augments these pursuits with his writings, his poetry, lecturing and ministering to AIDS patients. He's written over thirty books on the causes he fights for and his newest writings include Minor Prophets, Major Themes and Isaiah: Spirit of Courage, Gift of Tears. When asked if he thought he was making a difference, Fr. Berrigan remarked, "I don't know. I think I put a little sand in their gears.

For those struggling through their journey, unsure about their next turn, Berrigan could only comfort them through one phrase. So, like any good poet he simply articulated, "Don't despair."

Space Invaders

The Woodhouse Library now sports what they term "space age technology." According to Kim Kendrey, electronic services librarian at AQ, she and the five other librarians are the best, last, and only line of defense when "information encounters get ugly." Since last year the library has undergone several changes in library computer technology, including the addition of a new website located at (http://www.aquinas.edu/ library).

Sixteen networked computers are now available for research, e-mail, wordprocessing, and internet searches. The library also has online services including FinsSearch, InfoTrace, and ProQuest Direct which provide full-text materials that can be printed right off the web. This new feature will help to cut back on interlibrary loan and costly copies.

Kendrey also said, "Your first mission, should you choose to accept it, is to stop by the Woodhouse Library and try out any of the new computers or visit these new online services via the WWW.

Senator Political Affairs Committee Chair, Angela Bergman welcomes U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers

Photo by Brigid Bulger
by Becky Wallis

Times Contributing Writer

Some were experienced canoeists. Some had never canoed before. But seventeen Aquinas students and Resident Director Kelly Aldrich took off for a splashing good time Sept. 12 on Indian Lake for an afternoon of conversation and leadership training, all taking place in the confines of canoes.

This was the first ever Canoe Connection and according to those who attended it was a blast. The purpose of the trip was for the students to meet new people, to work with other campus leaders and to improve communication and leadership skills.

“We chose to chance the rapids, and dared to dance the tides,” said freshman Mika Martin. “At times we were to step out on a limb in order to meet someone new or make things happen through teamwork. I learned so much about leadership and I had so much fun!” she added.

The group left Aquinas at 12:30 p.m. and traveled to Camp Concordia. Upon arrival the group spent time getting to know each other. They were then put into pairs or individual teams. They were then put into pairs and sent out onto the lake for two hours of canoeing. The pairs paddled through large lakes and small swamp areas. At tiring times the pairs stopped for conversation. Each pair had a pack of questions to open up discussion.

While on the water, the pairs often caught up to one another and turned serious talk into major water battles, splashing and nearly tipping canoes over. “I was soaking wet when we left. It was great!” exclaimed sophomore Steve Setiawan.

On the lake the group saw many beautiful sights. They saw swans nesting, blue herring eating, and colorful fish jumping.

“We were one with nature,” said student Jeremy Bolker. After canoeing the pairs gathered together for pictures and closing comments. They then went to Burger King for a scrumptious meal. The group returned to Wege and to improve communication and leadership training, all taking place in the confines of canoes.

Canoe Connection gave the students the opportunity to work together,” said Aldrich. “The experienced canoeists helped the less experienced. This will be a lesson in teamwork for them to remember throughout life.”

Annual Fun Run "Shuffles" through Campus

by Mary Kopchick

Times Contributing Writer

On a bright Saturday morning, 145 Aquinas students and faculty gathered to run the second annual Centipede Shuffle as part of homecoming weekend. The one and a half mile race through the Aquinas campus required teams of five people tied together or individual participants to run or walk the course. Many of the teams opted to dress in costumes such as surgeons, basketball players and sunbathers in an attempt to win the new “Most Spirited” award and get a pizza party. Each participant also received a free t-shirt and certificate saying they beat Nelson, the school’s mascot.

The race began promptly at 9 a.m. and the winning team, “Big Balls Racing,” with students Chris Winslow, Nate Davis, Tony Squiers, Greg Thull and Robert Vanstaveren returned to the finish line with a time of 8:49. The second place team included students Kevin Smith, Bob Thormeier, Xavier Jaramillo, Omar Flores and Emanuell Berson finishing with a time of 8:53. The third team, Fox and Co., which also placed first in the co-ed division included Colleen Cone, Jackson Fox, Ken Baginski, Cliff Summers and Knut Mass, ran the course with a time of 9:22.

Many participants ran cross country and track and were all looking forward to running a good race. “It was fun—we had a lot better turnout than last year. It was nice to see a lot of spirited people while running it,” said sophomore and track runner Holly Heitzman.

Cindy Patin of Human Resources, organizer of the race was pleased with the day and the results of the race. “We couldn’t ask for a better day. It was nice to see how competitive people were to break last year’s time.”

Starter of the race, Physical Education Professor Ernie Romine agreed with Patin on this year’s turnout. “It’s a fun race. We’re more interested in having a good turnout. If we could grow this a third every year we could have 1,000 people out here in a few years.”

The top male and female teams and individual winners won a plaque and their picture with President Knopke and Nelson to be displayed at Wege. The winner of the “Most Spirited” went to the team “Big Orange Balls” led by sophomore Mary Fournier.

“Canoe Connection” provided the students an opportunity to work together,” said Aldrich. “The experienced canoeists helped the less experienced. This will be a lesson in teamwork for them to remember throughout life.”
Career Classes: Time Wasted or Well Spent?

POINT
by Angela Bergman
Times Staff Writer

Mention the infamous CD 101 and 201 to any current sophomore, and be prepared for complaint, bitterness, and condemnation. The course is a waste of valuable time, money, and effort. Clearly shown by the attitude of most students, the career development classes are not fulfilling the purpose of aiding students in their career search.

Students are forced to donate time and money to this course. The requirement for "CD 101" states that seven classes must be attended and that the notebook, an outrageous $22.75, must be completed by the end of the last session. For CD 201, the cost of paper and some disk is an even steeper $36.00 and the same number of classes must be attended. Combined, this totals 17.5 hours, costing $58.75. This is not inclusive of time spent on out-of-class assignments and the loss of time.

For all of these costs, some decent benefits are properly assumed. Unfortunately, there are few. The course is non credit bearing, and even though students receive zero credit for it, they may not walk on graduation day with the course completed. An effective course is also expected to teach something useful. Anyone in the career development classes could attest to the low level of productivity. What was really taught in CD 101?

CD 101 made a mockery out of professional, college-level work. We made a grocery list of coffee.

We passed pictures of what we like to do on a paper bag—not exactly professional, college-level work. We made a grocery list of coffee.

One of the strongholds of Aquinas College lies in its Career Services program. Being a small private college we sometimes find it difficult to compete with large, public universities. But we do have curriculum and support systems such as Career Services that will go that extra mile afforded to them by the small size of our community and dedication of faculty. In fact, many competitive schools don’t have the 4-year program for career development that we do. By beginning in the freshman year with Self Assessment and graduating to each successive level, Aquinas students have the advantage of being in touch with the Career Services Center so that they don’t suddenly realize that they aren’t prepared for applying for an internship, job, or graduate school. Our services keep students well prepared.

Aquinas also has a more automated Career Service Center than most students are aware of. In fact, Sharon Smith, Director of Career and Counseling Services says that we are at the “cutting edge of Career Service technology.”

When a student uses the official resume disk in the sophomore package and becomes registered, he or she is entering into the files at Career Services and has a helping hand and a great source of business connections when it’s time to enter into the real world. Many students have become disgruntled because of the cost of books required for the classes. These students don’t realize that receiving similar career counseling outside of school would cost them between $50 and $100 per hour. Jennifer Satterwaite, Associate Director of Career Services said, “If you look at the costs—$20, $30 [for the freshman folder and sophomore packet, etc.]—a $100 investment for good career skills.” Perhaps students wouldn’t complain of costs if they could envision the greater life-time value of the Career Development series.

Similarly, students complain that the required classes take time out of their already busy schedules. Yet, the classes only meet once per week for an hour and fifteen minutes. Again, Satterwaite contests that this is "not much time to invest on deciding and preparing for a career that a student, after graduation, would spend 40 years in." It is also a benefit that the courses extend over four years instead of just in the final two because without this requirement "students don’t come until [they have] immediate need," Satterwaite says. This step-by-step preparation allows students the time to think seriously about what will happen after graduation. On the stage of today’s rapidly changing job market, students need their career education in doses so that adjustments can be made accordingly.

Another concern is that some of the Career Development classes conflict with activities such as the required Humanities and Inquiry and Expression presentations. The number of sections needed and lack of time slots caused scheduling conflicts. Instructors had to make a choice between pulling students away from classes and pulling students from a Humanities or Inquiry and Expression lecture.

Finally, many students are opposed to taking a non-credit course. Since this course is required, giving it credit value would increase the total credit requirements for everyone. It seems that already rigorous liberal arts requirements would be enough without adding more to the pile.

The negative opinions toward the Career Development series appear, at best, uninformed.

COUNTERPOINT
by Heather Young
Times Local/National News Editor

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AIDSWALK Set to Enlighten GR

by Angela Burrows

Times Contributing Writer

AIDS is the leading cause of death among Americans ages 25-44. Although most do not realize it, they have been acquainted with someone who has AIDS. Most have probably shaken hands with or hugged, someone who has AIDS. Most everyone has been affected by AIDS; and AIDS awareness and the search for an AIDS cure are important to many people. This is the message sent in the annual AIDSWALK.

The mission of Citizens for AIDS Awareness is to provide organization for an annual AIDSWALK in the Grand Rapids area. The purpose of the Sept. 27 AIDSWALK is to increase awareness of AIDS needs through a collaborative community effort, and to encourage diverse participation in these events. Last year over 700 walkers and almost 100 volunteers, including Aquinas students, participated in the AIDSWALK. One of last year’s participants, Hanh Nguyen, said, “Even though you have to wake up really early it’s a really rewarding experience.” She added, “I was surprised to see so many people my age there. Aquinas even had its own booth, AQ was really involved! Hopefully this year’s walk will be equally successful.”

The AIDSWALK is sponsored by 97-LAV-FM, Fox 17 - WXMI, The Body Shop, Haircuts Plus Salons, The Mason Companies, and Meijer. Individuals may get involved by sponsoring a walker, by collecting contributions and participating in the walk. Contributions benefit many organizations. The AIDS Resource Center is one such organization. It has provided HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and support services since 1983. Another McAusley Clinic, provides medical care and nursing care management to HIV infected persons, community education, outreach, counseling, and testing to at-risk and affected individuals. This organization provides clinical services including an infectious disease specialist consultation, nutritional and mental health services, dermatology, and gynecology.

Jeanne White, AIDS activist and mother of AIDS victims Ryan White, will be Grand Marshall for the AIDSWALK. The walk starts at 9 a.m. at the Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids for a three mile walk through the Heritage Hill District.

“The AIDSWALK provides an excellent opportunity to get involved in a worthwhile cause,” says Staci Valley, AURA AIDSWALK contact person. If you’d like to get involved please get in touch with Staci Valley at extension 6833, or AURA at extension 6829.

GR Public Library Expands Under Millage Vote

by Hanh K. Nguyen

Times Contributing Writer

Due to the passage of a recent millage, the Grand Rapids Public Library will get a face lift. Many agree that some of the best libraries in the country are those that are both easy to use and beautiful to look at. This is why the Grand Rapids Public Library is in the process of designing and funding an expansion on the current building.

Research for this expansion project first started in 1989, when a Library Master Plan was written. In 1994, the library commission- en and a national library planning firm developed a 20-year building and service plan. The new plans for the more modern library include a children’s service area four times the size of the existing area, climate controlled housing for the Local Historical Collections, safe and expanded parking, and larger reference services.

Plans are also being made to renovate and re-open the Kyercon Library building for public use, relocate the entrance to the east side of the building adjacent to the parking lot, add fire suppression system, and add energy efficient HVAC systems for both buildings.

Technology will be improved through a Local Area Network (LAN). Some specific improvements include, but are not limited to, increased space for books, magazines, videos and other materials, special space for children’s programs and improved reference and computer-based resources.

The construction is expected to be completed in less than three years. Pat Sandro, co-chair of the citizens committee which worked to pass the millage said, “This is a terrific long-term gain for the entire community.” She added, “Learning is life-long and no other institution provides so much information in such a variety of formats for free. It’s very gratifying to see residents support this vital part of the community.”

The funding costs total $22.8 million. It would make the average property tax increase for Grand Rapids residents to around $14 a year, which is less than the average cost of one book.
The tradition of Homecoming is also an opportunity to reflect upon the mission statement of Aquinas. The values of Aquinas: Competence, Compassion, Conscience, and Commitment that are listed in the handbook serve as a reminder to students that holding to convictions when surrounded by conformity is a homecoming of the heart. We are all finding a sense of ourselves everyday at Aquinas. The Aquinas spirit is alive and well as we develop our gifts that will help serve the world. As Alumni take the opportunity to come home to Aquinas and relive their days spent here, new students are being shaped into individuals of competence, compassion, conscience, and commitment. There really is no place like Aquinas, no place like home.

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Homecoming Weekend 1997 doused alumni with Saint Spirit. The tradition of Homecoming was carried on by The Aquinas Circle, a co-ed football game was played on Touchdown Mary field, the second Annual Fun Run, titled the "Centipede Shuffle" weaved through campus on Saturday morning, Domestic Problems played the beer tent, and students converged upon the Carriage House for a Homecoming Dance. This isn’t Dooley’s AQ anymore.

A large applicant turnout for Student Senate, the establishment of Co-ed flag football teams, and Carriage House cookouts during soccer games are just a few signs that school spirit is alive and kicking at Aquinas. The idea to renovate the Cook Carriage House, which many students take for granted, was an important part of life at AQ. Berrigan’s visit to campus should serve as a reminder to students that holding to convictions when surrounded by conformity is a homecoming of the heart. We are all finding a sense of ourselves everyday at Aquinas. The Aquinas spirit is alive and well as we develop our gifts that will help serve the world. As Alumni take the opportunity to come home to Aquinas and relive their days spent here, new students are being shaped into individuals of competence, compassion, conscience, and commitment. There really is no place like Aquinas, no place like home.
Republicans have been moaning for years that the tax discourages taxes, especially that conservative dedicated themselves to cutting insurance for children. Clinton wanted to add some social programs, specifically education and additional health programs, specifically education. Clinton de­­

The game of politics took prece­

The first is that there were really no

There are two ironies in the deal. There are two ironies in the deal. The first is that there were really no
decisions made. Because of the robust economy, there was money to spare. Legislators had a pork barrell field day. They almost had more money than they knew what to do with, so they found places for it. In addition, the policy changes aren't really as significant as the players made them out to be. Clinton's child insurance program is an excellent improvement, but the education tax credit is for college students. Unfortunately, most parents of college students are already middle income earners. This does very little for the poor, who lack the pre-college education to take advantage of the tax credit. The Republicans, while profusely patting themselves on the back, fail to mention the incredible complexities of the tax provisions. The big winners in this deal are the accountants who must decipher the intricate new tax schemes. The party of the "postcard tax return" has ensured the overload of the IRS for tax fraud, because taxpayers won't know whether they are coming or going.

Another case of doublethink is the tremendous "tax burden" being lifted from the American people in the form of tax cuts. Even with all of the targeted tax cuts, the purpose of the tax cut is flawed. Clinton wants to shed the liberal label (which I think he has done by now); Republicans want to make their money.

This is the doublethink. Clinton said one year ago "We don't need a balanced budget." Clinton now says "I am the first administration in 50 years to balance the budget." Republicans tell us the economy is great, but it needs to be better. Despite all of these deficiencies, the American public loved every minute of this balance budget deal. We thought our politicians were finally putting partisan differences aside and working for the people. Unfortunately, the real work is yet to be done. Over $300 billion in spending cuts must be agreed upon by 2002. How convenient. New president. Different Congress. We'll have those difficult decisions later.

Ironically, Medicare and Medicard, the real issues of the future, were put off for another day too. One fact which should have blown the deal was this year's estimated deficit—$43 billion. If the budget deal would have fallen through, spending remaining at its current growth rate, and the economy remaining strong, the deficit most likely would have been balanced in 1999. But that is the one "contradictory belief" Washington is trying to forget right now. After all, 1999 isn't an election year.
A Taste of Mexico:
Annual Mexican Festival Spices Up Calder Plaza

by Angie Rivas
Times Contributing Writer

For Grand Rapids, the Mexican Festival is one of the city's biggest and most popular annual events, guaranteed to attract hundreds of people to Calder Plaza downtown. For area Mexican-Americans, this is an important event for other reasons.

The Festival, which took place on Sept. 12, 13 and 14, celebrates Mexican Independence Day, Sept. 16. The spirit of this day has been passed down from each successive generation in remembrance of the event and celebrated on this memorial weekend. These three days were jam-packed with a variety of events.

Friday was kicked off by the traditional opening ceremony: the mariachi band sang the Mexican national anthem while the Mexican flag was raised. Besides the nonstop entertainment from the Mariachi San Miguel, the folkloric dancers, and the different bands and singers, there were food booths aplenty which supplied traditional, mouth-watering foods, Tacos, quesadillas, tortas, and enchiladas were all available, plus other delicacies.

So what exactly are Mexicans celebrating? After a long period of domination by the Spaniards, Native Mexicans revolted in the late 1700s, and this was known as the Independence Battle. The man leading this battle was a Catholic priest named Don Miguel Hidalgo Costilla, who was later known as the “Father of the Country.” He helped the Indians fight off the Spaniards, and after eleven years, in the year 1810, Mexico gained its independence from Spain. To this day, on the night of Sept. 15, huge crowds gather at the main balcony in the National Palace. At midnight, the president of Mexico gives the traditional grito, or shout: “Viva México... Viva la Independencia!”

The crowds join in the chant and it spreads out in every other town in Mexico. In addition, the lighting of the Capitolf takes place illuminating the Cry of Independence and making Sept. 16 a very special day.

This festival was also a good way for Aquinas students to learn and experience the beautiful heritage of the Mexican people, and hopefully leave with a positive impression.

Eva Berumen, a senior RA, attended Saturday afternoon along with some other Aquinas students. “I think it's important to have a Mexican festival, because even though we're labeled as Hispanics, we should be able to have our own festival with Mexican dances and Mexican food,” said Berumen. “Being ‘Hispanic’ isn’t enough. I’m proud to say this is who I am, and this is my culture.”

Daleine Grein, a sophomore RA, attended the festival as well. “I thought it was a really interesting experience. I loved the food, the different dances, and the music,” said Grein. “I think it’s important to be aware of other cultures so we can learn more about them. Even if you’re not Mexican, it was a really good idea to see how diversity includes everybody.”

The Mexican festival is organized annually by the Mexican Cultural Patriotic Committee, which includes two of Aquinas’ own students, sophomore Imelda Torres and senior Josefina Vargas, among its membership.

“The goal of the Mexican festival is to promote the Mexican culture so others can know who we are,” said Olivia Benitez-Rivas, president of the committee. “We want to express our diverse culture not only amongst ourselves, but with other cultures as well, so we can work together better as a community.”

This year’s Mexican Festival was once again a huge success. Whether trying the food, buying Independence Day memorabilia, dancing the banda and quebradita, or just chilling with the cholos and cholitas, attendees were impressed with the festival.

Dana Freeman’s “Mantra” Comes Alive

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

If you are at all familiar with Aquinas Art Professor Dana Freeman’s artwork, you know she has been known for unorthodox creativity, expanding her audience’s horizons, and for ‘that egg thing.’

Well, ‘the egg thing’ is actually a repeating theme in much of her recent artwork, sharing the same or similar components among several pieces. “Eggshell Ma...”

Dana Freeman’s “Mantra” is an installation of this theme. This time, however, Freeman has taken the still-life to another level: it’s no longer still.

Upon first approach, the piece looks like the familiar Mantra (a carefully and thoughtfully constructed pyramid of eggshell halves). Closer inspection reveals that the “table” upon which the ma...
Talent Show Promises Fun With the Folks

by Phil Stimac
Times Contributing Writer

If the thought of Parents Weekend approaching vexes you, fear not. Although a scheduling con-

flict with your normal weekend activities (i.e. party, party, party) is likely, rest assured. There is still

the hope for you in this, your most desperate hour.

One way to pass the time, or, as some like to say, "bond," with your parents in a wholesome manner would be to attend the annual Parents Weekend Talent Show in Kretschmer Hall on Sept. 26 at 8:00 p.m.

This year's Talent Show, sponsored by the Aquinas Programming Board, will feature Pat McCurdy as Master of Ceremonies and 13 of Aquinas's own talented entertainers. Mr. McCurdy will bring to the festivity (besides his notoriously funny self) a guitar and his own compositions of lyrics characterized by The New York Times as "literate and ambitious."

On the novice level, Aquinas's pool of talent will include a couple of bands, a dance group, and many other original acts. Thus, if one is looking for a convenient and inexpensive way to entertain his or her parents, and to meet people in the process, attending the Talent Show would be in your best interest.

Other points of interest for Parents Weekend include the Dance's List ceremony, parental observation of classes, Mass, and at some point during the weekend if not more than once, better-than-average food at Wege.

Aquinas welcomes guitarist and comedian Pat McCurdy as host of the annual Parents Weekend Talent Show. The show is slated for Sept. 26 at 8:00 p.m. in Kretschmer Hall.

Imprimatur Excellent for AQ Writers

by Joe Theuerkauf
Times A&E Editor

Among the hustle and bustle and general frustrations of beginning a new school year at Aquinas, there is one thing worthy of pause and attention. Imprimatur is the result of a strong desire and motivation. It provides an outlet in which student writing may be published and read by the AQ community, instead of being "stuck, waiting for the once-yearly Sampler launch," said Editor Jeff McCrystal in his introduction to the periodical.

McCrystal's hopes for the small magazine are high, and very open-minded. "What I felt we (writers, the Aquinas Writer's Guild, and me) needed," said McCrystal, "was some sort of outlet for our writing, a more efficient delivery system for feeding the literary monkey, so to speak."

Feedback received for this endeavor has been positive toward the staff of Imprimatur and the writers who contributed. "This started as a reaction to the real lack of venues for student publishing," says McCrystal, "which I've found are important. You find out real quick, when you've published, exactly what people think of your work."

While the focus will try to remain on the writers who submit works, it will also be a forum for book reviews, events calendars, and articles dealing with subjects of literary interest.

Said McCrystal, "The first issue was cobbled together on a computer using desktop publishing software. As far as the content was concerned, I pretty much relied on the people around me to submit poetry, etc." McCrystal commented on his motives, saying, "It keeps me out of trouble. And this helps me to use my evil powers for good. So my purposes are, essentially, selfish." McCrystal hopes to publish once a month, but said "without the student writer, this doesn't go, period!"
by Leslie Palmer
Times Contributing Writer

On a calm fall Friday afternoon, the men's and women's cross country teams set out to prove they could take advantage of the perfect running conditions the cool, cloudy day had provided. It was the second annual Aquinas College Invitational at Riverside Park, and the teams were ready to strut their stuff.

On the heels of an impressive season last year, which concluded with five Saints making an appearance at nationals, the Aquinas College Cross Country program picked up right where they left off: on the road to victory.

After completing only their second meet this season, the Saints have already proven to be the team to beat in the WHAC conference. Having lost only a few seniors while gaining a plethora of talented freshman, both the men's and women's teams hope to join the country's elite.

These young, fresh faces combined with the endurance and stability of the upperclassmen should provide both teams with the skills and determination needed to run further than any teams in AQ history.

Cross Country Teams off to a Fast Start

Strong Leadership Guides Runners Through Early Meets

by Leslie Palmer
Times Contributing Writer

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The Aquinas Invitational featured several area teams, including Hope, Cornerstone, and Lansing Community College. However, it was the Saints who dominated the course.

In the men's portion of the meet, Lansing CC was able to squeeze out a victory over the Saints by a mere four points. Aquinas sophomore Ken Baginski set the pace, covering the 8000 meter course in 26:08. Four of the top ten finishers were from AQ, as Jackson Fox (4th), Knut Maass (6th), and Bob Thormeier (8th) followed close behind.

"I thought our overall performance was outstanding," said Baginski. "I really feel like we're ready for our first big race."

The women's team also proved to be the pace setters, as they easily captured their 5000 meter portion of the invitational. Their opponents were no where in sight as the closest team finished 66 points behind the Saints. All of Aquinas' top ten runners finished in the top fifteen, giving the women an easy victory.

Sophomore Leslie Ervin led the way with a first place finish. Her time of 19:33, was only eight seconds off Riverside's course record. Her top fifteen teammates included: Audrey Remsberg (4th), Sarah Carter (5th), Molly Huber (6th), Karen English (7th), Julie Alpers (8th), Shannon Ottenweller (9th), Beth Bonai (10th), Kelly Craiko (11th), and Jodyln Rodgers (15th).

For three of Aquinas' top runners, this invitational became a very memorable one, as juniors Ottenweller, Huber, and Maass finished Riverside's course fast enough to make quality as Aca­dem­ic All Americans.

When informed of their accomplishment, Ottenweller and Huber pranced around the crowd shouting, "We're on the wall! We're on the wall!" in reference to the list of other All-Americans painted on the fieldhouse wall.

After two successful meets, Aquinas Cross Country coach Dave Wood, was quite pleased with the team's progress. "Both teams have trained so hard and ran so well as a group that everyone will be happy with the end results."

Ervin relayed the excitement of the team by saying, "This year, we have a serious chance to qualify for nationals as a team."

With the steady contribution of the newcomers, and the solid leadership of the returners, she may very well be right.

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Young Golf Team Driving It Home

by Kimani Shillingford
Times Contributing Writer

The men’s golf team began its fall season on Sept. 5 with an impressive showing in the WHAC Conference Jamboree at Spring Arbor College. The men’s team placed fourth with steady performances by a crop of new faces and one returning.

Coach Tom Gunn is predicting a successful season, due in part to his team’s youth. “They haven’t played up to their potential, yet,” said Gunn. “For the freshmen, playing on new and unfamiliar courses is going to be a learning experience.” This year’s team is made up primarily of freshmen Jeff Andrus, John Hudson, Brian Raineer, and Peter Zeeodynamic. Brian Ebel will be counted on for setting a positive example as the team leader. “We are a really young team,” said Zeeodynamic. “Getting over the transition from high school golf to college golf is going to be the biggest obstacle.”

After their strong showing at the conference tournament, the team began preparing for a meet at Grand Valley State on Sept. 19, which they will follow with another meet against their WHAC foes on Sept. 22 at St. Thomas More College.

The players and coach Gunn are confident that they will have a successful season. According to Gunn, “All of our players are pretty consistent but a dominant player hasn’t emerged as of yet.”

Added Zeeodynamic, “We are getting better and better every time out.”

Sports Page Changes

To further the depth of our coverage of Aquinas sports, we at the Times have added a new department on page 11. “Prime Time Players” will focus on two or three outstanding individual performers from Aquinas’ sports programs. This week, Contributing Writer Damon Bouwkamp spotlights men’s soccer, women’s soccer and volleyball. Enjoy. Go Saints!

Men’s Soccer

Offensive production has been the name of the game for junior forward P.J. Tannian. With 4 goals off of 11 shots in 5 games, Tannian has supplied a majority of the offensive output for the Saints attack. In addition to his four goals, Tannian has one assist giving him a total of nine points on the season.

Women’s Soccer

Scoring four goals in 2 games during the week of Sept. 7-13, earned freshman Amy Panse WHAC player of the week honors. Panse, a forward from Portage, MI, netted a hat trick in a 4-0 victory over the Fighting Scots of Albion. Four days later, Panse talled another hat trick along with an assist in Aquinas’ 14-0 win over Cornerstone.

Prime Time Players

with ALAN LUM

Sports Commentary

Baseball Needs a Real Leader, Not Realignment

At times, I’ve felt like I was watching one of those “All-Sport” commercials, where the football weighs 200 lbs., or the hoop is raised to 20 ft. Confused, I am. It doesn’t matter though. Major League Baseball continues to play with traditional loyalty as if baseball were still the country’s most popular game. I’ve got news for you, it’s NOT.

This is a sport where teams such as the San Francisco Giants fail to draw 20,000 a night, despite the fact that they are fighting in their state rival the L.A. Dodgers tooth and nail for the pennant berth. People won’t even go out to watch existing teams, so why on earth do we add these teams and get on with nothing? I’d have to think if the league or the players.

It makes sense, but then we discover that realignment, or one form of it, would cause 15 teams to change leagues. What sense does the novelty of inter-league play have then, if the Cubs and the White Sox or Yankees and Mets, suddenly become division rivals. By adding realignment next season, inter-league play seems like a one way gimmick.

The bottom line is that nobody trusts baseball anymore. How can we? Once steeped in tradition, baseball is now losing the only thing that brought many fans back after the 1994 World Series was canceled. It wasn’t like they came back in droves though. It’s been three years since the fall of the “Fall Classic”, and baseball can’t afford to make another mistake. Most baseball traditionalists are just sick and tired of being jerked around.

Baseball needs changes, but they should start at the top. The problem is that league owners won’t give up the control they now have due to Bud Selig’s reign as interim commissioner.

Selig, in case you didn’t know also owns the Milwaukee Brewers, one of the league’s small market teams. This combination immediately creates problems, because most decisions made benefit only the office owners, not the league or the players.

In short, nobody is there to look out for the league’s best interests. Not that I feel anybody needs to protect the players, but what baseball needs now is a lot less of Selig, and a lot more stability.

Geographically, baseball’s divisions aren’t that bad. Compare any division in baseball to the NFL’s NFC West of the Atlantic Ocean. It’s been the name of the game for a couple of years, but we really are coming together for the first time since the 1994 World Series was canceled.

I’m not a big traditionalist. Inter-league play worked for me, and I don’t even mind more teams in the play-offs, but enough is enough. Can we just add these teams and get on with it? The fact that 15 teams may change leagues is unthinkable considering the current state of the game.

I’d have to think if the league as a whole was more successful, in terms of popularity and attendance, that slight realignment wouldn’t be such a big deal. As it is now though, many teams can hardly survive, even with the slight bit of tradition that has been preserved. For most teams, a move to a different division could be extremely costly, if not devastating.

Most baseball fans have already seen the league’s budget back pitch, I’m just wondering how long it takes Selig and the league to throw the high hard one that moves us all out of the batter’s box for good.
Tradition and Good Times Highlight Alumni Soccer Match

by Heather M. Karal and Alan Plum

Times Features Editor

Each year the Aquinas men’s varsity soccer loses excellent players to graduation. On homecoming weekend, however, many of these Aquinas soccer legends return to relive their glory days, as they team with other alumni to challenge the men’s varsity team in the Alumni Homecoming Match. In an entertaining and fun-filled match, the men’s varsity was able to hold off a late rally by the alumni to escape with a 5-3 victory. With about 15 minutes to play, the men’s varsity held a commanding lead until three goals by the alumni’s Jan Hrouda, class of 1993, Christian Cortes, class of 1995, and 1995 graduate Matthias “The Legend” Schneider, cut the lead to 4-3. The rally would fall short, though, as sophomore Ryan Smith scored to push the deficit back to two with under five minutes to play.

Aquinas senior co-captain Nate Richardson added two goals, while junior co-captain Andy Williams, and freshman Eric Gebhard each added one before Smith’s insurance goal put the game away. Due to the intense nature of the match, controversy soon showed itself. Dave Holbeschitz, class of 1994, was playfully ejected from the match, after he argued the placement of a penalty kick with referee Bill Wagner. Williams was also forced to leave the field against his will, after he attempted to play for the varsity without the proper foot wear. The confusion didn’t end there, as junior mid-fielder P.J. “Knothy” Tannian entered the game wearing the alumni’s white colored jersey. Tannian apparently outfoxed many of the alumni, as he received a throw-in and multiple passes from the subbed-in grad. Pandemonium ensued, as Richardson joined the match illegally, giving the men’s varsity a brief power play. The alumni countered by playing with two extra players until Wagner restored order.

The game is not just an exciting chance for Alumni to come back and test the skill of the current Alumni team, though. It is a tradition that was started in 1985. The first Alumni team was organized by Mike Hagan, a 1983 graduate and the longest playing Alumni on this year’s team. He has played in every homecoming game since its inception. Hagan remembers the beginning of this Aquinas tradition with pride as “The Alumni won the first seven years... Every year it’s been fun though, and it’s good to see everybody again.” Other graduates also enjoy this homecoming tradition. 1992 graduate, and current East Area Residence Director Eric Bridge observes that “It’s good for the Alumni to get to come and see this field because they didn’t have it when they were here.” The present soccer field was opened in 1993 and the Alumni homecoming game was the first match played on it.

Alumni on the Move

From AQ to the Bench:
Grad Serves as Judge

by Amy Briggs

Times Contributing Writer

Judge Dennis Leiber, an Aquinas graduate, is a Circuit Court judge in Kent County. Elected in 1988 and reelected in 1994, Leiber’s responsibilities as judge include reviewing cases of serious crimes and felonies with maximum life sentences, lawsuits over $10,000, and all divorces and custody cases. Due to new legislation in January of 1998, Leiber will be assigned to serve in a new capacity: the Family Division of Circuit Court. At that time, Leiber will oversee juvenile crime cases in addition to divorce and child custody cases. Though change always brings adjustment, Leiber says he is “honored and grateful” for this opportunity to serve in the “busiest and most productive circuit in Michigan.”

Leiber graduated from Aquinas in 1969 with a political science and history double major. He has wonderful memories of Aquinas theater and working as an announcer at the radio station, WXTO 97.9. In addition to his busy career, Leiber is also a husband and father. His wife graduated from Aquinas in 1987, and she now volunteers and does freelance illustrating. Their daughter, Catherine, is nine years old and a fourth grader. “My job is both taxing and rewarding,” says Leiber, “but I have a great staff and support system. Students, enjoy the opportunities Aquinas gives you in both intellectual development and personal enrichment.”

Aquinas Alumnus Puts on the
Grammy Awards

by Heather M. Karal

Times Features Editor

Even as he influences the music industry on a worldwide scale, Aquinas alumnus Gregory Knowles remembers the basis of his talents and education. "Aquinas gave me the foundation for what I do now,” Knowles said in an interview last week. Knowles graduated from Aquinas in 1974 in a Music with a Degree in Education. He then went on to do graduate work at Grand Valley State University. Since 1984 he has been president of Helion Productions, a recording company which produces numerous albums and books on tape.

Knowles is also the president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the organization responsible for sponsoring and producing the Grammy Awards which will be held on Feb. 25, 1998. "You know how the winner of the [Grammy] award always thanks the academy? Well, that’s us,” Knowles explained. The Academy is responsible for supervising voting, qualifying records for nomination, and producing the televised award ceremony. However, the Academy also sponsors several other events in the music industry such as symposiums, concerts, and a program which helps keep music education in schools. The Academy consists of over ten thousand voting members. A person may become a member after they have released six or more commercially released records in the United States. Knowles is now in his third term as president.

Knowles and his wife live part of the year in Los Angeles, California where Knowles conducts business, and part of the year in Kauai, Hawaii.

Tradition and Good Times Highlight Alumni Soccer Match